

Remarks/ Arguments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 44 to 60 will be pending in this patent application. Claim 44 has been amended, without prejudice, to more clearly define Applicants' claimed invention. Claims 31 to 43 have been canceled herein, without prejudice. Claims 1 to 30, 50, and 51 were canceled previously. Claims 52 to 60 have been added. Support for the foregoing amendments is found throughout Applicants' specification such as, for example, at pages 11 to 12 at paragraph [0036], and original Claims 32 to 35, and 38 to 42. No new matter has been added.

The Action includes rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a) and 112, second paragraph. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested respectfully.

Discussion of the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 31 and 44 (and the claims that depend therefrom) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. Although Applicants disagree respectfully that claims 31 and 44 are unclear, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments address the concerns raised in the Action thus rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested respectfully.

Discussion of the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 31 to 36, 40, 42, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over either U.S. patent application Publication No. 2004/0121620 to Pomarede et al. ("the Pomarede publication"). Although Applicants

Appl. No. 10/723,714

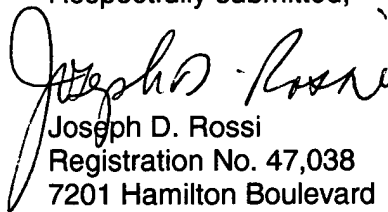
respectfully disagree that Claims 31 to 36, 40, 42, and 43 are rendered obvious by the Pomarede publication, Applicants have canceled the disputed claims, without prejudice, for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution of the above-identified patent application. Applicants reserve the right to present the subject matter of Claims 31 to 36, 40, 42, and 43 in a later-filed continuation patent application.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Action of record. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required and any additional fees that may be needed to Deposit Account No. 01-0493 in the name of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Rossi", is written over the printed name and address.

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